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MANIFEST DESTINY

Excerpts of Speeches delivered by

GENERAL VENUSTIANO CARRANZA

First Effects of an Educational Exhibition Organized by the Revolutionary Government in the City of Querétaro

Port of Matamoros, November 29th, 1915.

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But our undertaking of saving the Nation is important also in another sense: that Mexico become the soul of all other nations suffering the same evils which we endure, even of those countries which we see more prosperous, such as the Republics of Argentine and Chile, which at present enjoy the same peace as we apparently did for several years. Those who in the beginning believed that the sovereignty of all Latin-American countries was subject to peace and constitutional order, will at last understand that if those countries do not act at once in the same way as we have done, later they will be forced to do so, since they will finally find themselves in a situation where they will be compelled to regain their liberties. It is time that Latin-America should know that through our internal strife we have secured the re-establishment of justice and right, and that this struggle will serve as an example to those peoples so that they may reaffirm their sovereignty, their institution, and the freedom of their citizens.

This struggle of ours will be the beginning of a universal combat for the opening of an era of justice wherein will be established the principle of the respect of large countries for the rights of the weak ones. All exclusions, all privileges, must disappear, even though slowly. The individual who travels from one country to another, must submit in the latter, to all rightful conditions, and must have no more guarantees, no more rights, than those enjoyed by the natives themselves. Real justice will reign on earth when each citizen, in whichever part of the world he may find himself, shall feel as secure as in his own land. No more bayonets, no more cannon, no more cruisers to stand behind a man

who, moved by commercialism, goes away to seek his fortune, to exploit the wealth of other countries, and who imagines that he should enjoy more guarantees than any of the honest-working natives of that country...

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San Luis Potosí, December 26th, 1915.

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We represent law and order during armed strife, and at the present time we are the Revolutionaries, not only of the Mexican nation, but of Latin-America, the Revolutionaries of the Universe. Our duty towards our country is not solely to destroy reaction—a duty which we have almost fulfilled; now that we are reaching the end of the struggle, we are under obligation to give to the Republic those reforms which are indispensable for the betterment of our social upholding. But we have a still greater duty: that for which we have been appointed by History since America was discovered, as Mexico has always had a great place in the history of civilized countries. Mexico is the only country in America which, after three centuries of foreign rule and colonization, and after one century of internal strife, has become a nation which should be the model for all Spanish-America.

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We shall establish, by means of our laws, the welfare to which the citizen of any and every country is entitled; we shall produce a transformation in international legislation which has become a necessity. Up to this date, strife has succeeded strife throughout the world, without anyone being able to comprehend why nations should tear each other to pieces under any pretex; it is the big material interests which push nations into war, and so long as those interests are in existence, wars will continue to be a menace to humanity. For this reason I affirm that laws should be universal, and that what we establish here by conquest as a truth, should betoken welfare through the law of all mankind, be it in Mexico or in Africa. The eternal struggle of mankind has been for the improvement, for the welfare, for the development of peoples, and those gigantic upheavals have had no

other object than the welfare of separate units; humankind has mangled itself for these principles, and in order that war may cease, it is imperative that the reign of justice extend over all the earth. It is pitiful that the principles which are secured through national strife should belong to that one nation only which conquers them. For this reason you see that Revolution is not merely armed strife, or fields covered with blood beginning to dry: Revolution is something greater, it is the progress of the world asserting itself; and by misfortune, by fatality, or perhaps by luck, to us has been allotted the task of being the initiators of this struggle. These ideas which I have expressed now and which I suggested a short time ago, have found response in a distinguished citizen who has also thought of the union of all Latin-American countries and of the universal recognition of the principles which I have just now enumerated, of justice, peace, and liberty for all the countries of America.

We must unite now, as we did during the struggle, so that in the time of peace and reconstruction, after the war, which has been working out a general transformation in all systems, we may reach the height of our aspirations, the realization of the greatness of Spanish-America. I mean above all Spanish-America, because it is formed by nations which, due to their small significance as yet, have not so far filled the place they should hold in the progress of humanity. We are witnessing at the present time, how the European nations are tearing each other to pieces, seeking to reach a decision by means of war; but those who maintain that struggle, which is not so much one of national defense as of commercial interests, do not feel nor appreciate all the misery brought about by their act, and think only of their immense personal interests, without wasting one thought on the interests of the miserable ones who fall victims to the struggle.

It will appear almost incredible that after a war in which we have spilled so much blood, and which we have carried on for such a lengthy period, the First Chief of the Army should express himself thus; but the people must always be placed above any law, above any institution which may impede its betterment and its progress, above any goverment which prevents man from being a citizen and enjoying all the public weal which nature has intended for him.

The fact that there have been evil elements amongst ourselves, is what carried us into strife because we, who are honest, are forced by the nefarious to punish them and to correct them as they deserve. From now on, as the result of a lengthy campaign, the Government of men of clean intentions will direct affairs so that the country may rise again and reach the place it should occupy on the American Continent.

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City of Querétaro, January 2nd, 1916.

It is for this reason that we think of having our country represented abroad and respected by the great Powers, in order to demonstrate to them that weak countries have had, and still have the right to be respected. We have to prove that we have been able to preserve our independence, and shall know how to do so in the future, even though our country may be relatively weak, even though we may not count on big fleets nor on millions of men in arms. To this end, we must co-operate, we must enter into an agreement for mutual help, in order to be strengthened. Furthermore, we must remember our origin, so that we may maintain our independence indefinitely and assure the welfare of all our countrymen. We have been able to preserve our independence during critical times when intervention tried to impose itself upon us, and we must now demonstrate that we have enough strength to re-establish peace in our Republic without any outsider's help.

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One of the principal aspirations of the Revolution is to preserve, above all, the integrity of the nation and its independence, besides seeking to assure its social welfare, so that no foreign country may feel justified in invading our soil. Time does not matter in order to secure this; it may take us many years, or only a few; but we shall always go along the straight road in order to seek, until we find it, the satisfactory solution of our problem, in order finally to become a nation able to rule and to support itself.

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